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WORK

A Journal of Progress



THE WHITE HOUSE

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

— By The —

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

Washington, D. C.

GEORGE E. ALLEN
Administrator



N O V E M B E R

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“WHAT do the people of America want more than anything else? In my mind two things: Work; work, with all the moral and spiritual values that go with work. And with work, a reasonable measure of security — security for themselves and for their wives and children. Work and security—these are more than words. They are the spiritual values, the true goal toward which our efforts of reconstruction should lead.”

—Franklin D. Roosevelt.

The President of the United States



FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

WORK

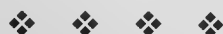
A Journal of Progress

Published Monthly
by the
**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WORKS PROGRESS
ADMINISTRATION**
George E. Allen,
Administrator
Vol. 1 No. 3
November, 1936

Work or lose the power to will.
—John Sullivan Dwight

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IT'S YOUR WPA

—working for you and your city, accom-
plishing notable lasting improvements.
Property values are enhanced; men and
women are given gainful work. You
should inspect these projects and judge
its merits for yourself.

Onward!

THERE could be no more striking, significant and hopeful sign of the times than the unanimity with which the result of the National election has been accepted throughout the country. The outcome was scarcely known when there was an almost universal, spontaneous outburst of approval unparalleled in the entire history of the Nation. In succeeding days this feeling was intensified.

The meaning of this is unmistakable. The social conscience of the American people is awake to a degree never before attained. The emphatic approval of President Roosevelt's policies and achievements at the polls proves this beyond cavil.

The task now confronting the country is consolidating and protecting the advances already made in striving for human welfare.

Citizens at large now have been able to view and pass judgment upon the course of their Government. And it should be evident to all that there will now be a much more wide-spread cooperation and assistance by the general public in the work of those directly charged with the task of carrying out the social program that is commanding the admiration of the world.

This is particularly heartening. The way of the pioneer always is thorny and the fact that the courage and wisdom of the President now has been accorded such complete vindication will prove one of the most inspiring pages in all history.

Security

IN this world of uncertainty is a universal longing for security. It is a natural longing, with dreams of being able to enjoy life fortified by the assurance of a steady income. Yet because of "accidents incident to our social order" all too few are able to make financial provision for old age while they still have the capacity to earn. The first decisive step in terminating these "accidents" was taken recently with the mailing by the Social Security Board of old-age annuity forms. These forms are more than application blanks; they are the written pledge of the Government to insure against social accidents.

Thus was born in America a new social order from which the spectre of the almshouse is banished from the minds of all of us who must grow old.

To the 26,000,000, who ultimately will become eligible for pensions at the age of 65, those application blanks constitute the most important turning point in their lives. They represent the difference between doubt and conviction. Doubt in youth and middle age as to what the future holds for them, and conviction that their Government will not neglect them when gray hairs keep them from the gates of industry.

But there is more to the Social Security program than the old-age annuities. The other major economic accidents that must inevitably occur and recur in any social order are similarly guarded against in this sweeping reform, such as unemployment compensation and care of the blind and lame.

Because the program is new in the American scheme of things, the Social Security program is still only vaguely understood by many. Therefore, we commend to you the article by Frank Bane, executive director of the Federal Social Security Board, appearing on Page 6 of this issue of WORK.

WORK MARCHES ON WITH *Roosevelt*

By
Geo. E. Allen

WPA Administrator, District of
Columbia

THE overwhelming vote of confidence recently given President Roosevelt assures the "Forgotten Man" that his best friend will remain in the White House for another four years. The deserving needy will continue to have an opportunity to earn a living, without resort to charity or a dole.

The history of the Roosevelt Administration is a rapidly unfolding tale of humanitarianism, directed at solution of the problems of the millions unable to find work.

President Roosevelt frankly told Americans:

"You have a right to expect that those in authority will do everything in their power to help restore conditions that make employment and opportunity possible; more than that, that you will be protected insofar as is humanly possible, from the physical and mental and spiritual ravages of economic and social maladjustment."

Confronted with the gigantic task of finding employment for millions of men and women, the President created in May, 1933, the Federal Emergency Relief Administration with authority to make grants of money to the states for the relief of destitution which was prevalent in every section.

A month later found Congress passing the National Industrial Recovery Act. Its objectives called for creation of employment by governmental expenditures for labor through the building of sound public works of recognized and lasting social value.



The theory of governmental public works as a business stimulant contemplated re-employment not only of workers at the site of construction, but also in the production, fabrication and transportation of materials needed in actual building. Behind every worker on a Public Works Administration project are other workers recalled to jobs in quarries, forests, mills or factories, and in the shipment of these materials.

One phase of the FERA was inaugurated in November, 1933, as the Civil Works program to provide jobs for 4,000,000 persons during the ensuing winter. Approximately half of those employed on that program came from the relief load; the remainder were unemployed per-

sons not on relief. Prevailing wage rates were paid. Roads and airports were built; public buildings repaired, recreational centers produced and "white collar" projects instituted.

The total cost of this program, which ended in April, 1934, was \$938,000,000, of which \$738,000,000 went for wages. At its peak the CWA employed 3,107,164 persons.

But this was not enough! Men and women who had been jobless in some cases for years could barely exist on the meagre compensation they received for their efforts. True, the step was effective in that it restored some of the workers' self-respect; they were not subjected to outright charity. The humiliation of the dole had been avoided; workers were being fitted into jobs to which they had given their lives. Young men and women who never had been able to find employment were given actual jobs, not only taking them off the streets but enabling them to pay their way in life.

The next step in the superhuman effort to lead a bewildered people back along the recovery trail found the President directing a return to FERA with cessation of the CWA. He resorted to the former plan of providing employables on relief with work yielding sufficient income to supply the deficiency in the approved family budget. At its peak, work was given to an estimated 2,444,604 persons.

However, millions still were unemployed. The number of families on relief reached a peak early in 1935, when 4,500,000 cases, representing 15,000,000 persons—one-tenth of the nation's population—were receiving relief. This relief normally was given in cash; some was given in orders



on merchants; surplus commodities were being distributed to the needy.

Homes were being lost at the rate of 1,000 a day. Highways were glutted with baffled, discouraged hitchhikers, going nowhere in particular, just hoping against hope that the turn in the road would bring productive work of some kind, any kind—paying enough to buy the barest necessities of life.

But the turn in the road only revealed another darkened factory, its windows broken, signs of inactivity everywhere. Plodding onward, this despondent army passed farms long since abandoned because their products brought virtually nothing in return.

Came then establishment, in May, 1935, of the Works Progress Administration. Its purpose was

to remove from relief rolls through projects or in private employment the maximum number of persons in the shortest time possible. Projects were initiated by states and municipalities through coordination of the agencies included under the Works program.

It was by far the most direct approach to solution of a Herculean task. But even so, the President's program was viewed with considerable skepticism, not only by political opponents, but by some of his own party members. They envisioned it as a gigantic agency based on waste; as a step toward dictatorship, one which would set up an intricate system of bureaucracies in Washington, providing thousands of jobs for political compatriots, but not relieving the financial load of the former mill worker or other la-

borer who was in dire need of employment.

The kindest of his critics belittled the plan as "boondoggling," scoffing at leaf-raking and other minor projects.

Despite this deluge of criticism, President Roosevelt put machinery in motion to make good his pledge that "no one shall starve."

More than 90,000 works projects, with an estimated total cost of about \$1,460,000,000, were selected for operation through April 15, 1936.

The major types of projects selected, in order of importance, were: Work on highways, roads and streets, representing more than one-third of the total cost of all projects selected for operation; improvement and expansion of public recreational facilities, such as parks, playgrounds, etc.; work on public buildings;

sewer systems and other public utilities and "white collar" projects. Work also has been done on flood control, sanitation and health, harbor and other transportation, and the so-called "goods" projects, producing necessities for distribution among the destitute unemployed.

Inauguration of the WPA effected a lightening of the relief load; men started streaming back to gainful employment as project after project was launched. Families which for months did not know whence their next meal was coming began to have some feeling of security. They were not rolling in wealth, it is true, but as President Roosevelt had promised, "No one starved."

In the wide diversification of work designed to best the depression and put the country back on its economic feet, projects were created for the employment of women. Sewing rooms were opened, municipal and county records were reclassified in many states and brought up to date; library books were re-bound and preserved; home-making courses were inaugurated, not only instructing needy families how best to care for their homes, but also giving employment to thousands of teachers; establishment of clinics put thousands of doctors and nurses back to work.

Caring for youths between the ages of 16 and 25, the National Youth Administration was established within the WPA in June, 1935. Its duties have been to provide employment in private industries or on works projects for those age classifications; to provide vocational guidance or training to youths without specific skill and to extend part-time employment to needy high school and college students.

Success of this program is indicated by figures showing that in the scholastic year 1935-1936 approximately 350,000 students received aid through employment on projects furnished by the schools in which they were enrolled.

Meantime, the Civilian Con-



servation Corps, launched in April, 1933, rapidly gained momentum. The Emergency Conservation Work program was inaugurated to help relieve the acute distress and unemployment; to provide for restoration of the country's natural resources and the advancement of an orderly program of extensive public works.

Over 150 major types of work are carried on by CCC enrollees, including forest culture, forest protection, erosion and flood control, irrigation and drainage, transportation and structural improvements, range development, wild life, landscape, recreation and miscellaneous activities.

Employees in this phase of President Roosevelt's program alone, from April, 1933, to July, 1936, totaled 1,684,614 enrollees.

Similar strides were being

made on other fronts. At its peak, in March of this year, employment on all projects prosecuted under the Works program totalled 3,856,000, while figures on October 10 showed 2,520,669 persons employed on WPA projects alone.

Realization of the President's immediate objective—provision of work to millions—has been accomplished. With this realization, naturally, has come better business conditions throughout the whole country. Business in most lines has approached or passed the 1929 peak. The back of the depression is broken; confidence has been restored.

But President Roosevelt did not stop there. He realized the need for security and declared:

"The objectives of security of home, of livelihood, and of Social Insurance are a minimum of the promise that we can offer to the American people. They constitute a right which belongs to every individual."

An extensive system of old age assistance has been provided through the Social Security Act, which was approved in August, 1935. The act sets up two systems for aiding the aged. One is designed to help the states to give immediate assistance to aged individuals on a basis of need; the other to provide annuities in the future to persons over the age of 65, based on wage experience.

Provision also is made for the protection of children who are in need of special assistance; grants are made to states to assist in meeting the costs of material and child health services; service to crippled children, Child Welfare and other work. The blind have been aided; state health services have been extended; vocational rehabilitation has been provided.

Except for a few minor touches, the canvas is almost completed. A master artist has made his painting of the "more abundant life" a true-life picture.

The tragic story of the depression, which had crippled the entire nation by 1932, gradually is being forgotten.

Social Security

The problems of the needy aged, the needy blind, and of dependent children, for example, exist in all States, but obviously they vary from one State to another. Under the Social Security Act the States maintain their key position in deciding how these needs shall be met.

Those who receive public assistance in institutions are not included in the Federal offer of help, but in the wide field outside institutions, aid will be given on conditions framed to release initiative in the regions. These permit the State to frame a public-assistance law suited to its own budget and its own needs. It is required that the plan shall operate uniformly throughout the political subdivisions and that the State shall bear some part of the cost.

Requirements of uniformity beyond these are few: An opportunity for a review by a State agency before an application is finally denied, an assurance that the plan provides efficient methods of administration and regulations as to age, citizenship and residence which do not exceed those set up under the Federal act. The definition of need, the selection of administrative personnel, the amount of assistance given, whether the plan shall be administered by a single State agency or whether by cities or counties under the supervision of the State—these are matters for the State to decide. The maximum aid to individuals, of which the Federal Government will contribute one-half—a total of \$30 a month in the case of the needy aged and the blind—does not prevent a State from keeping to a lower level of assistance or a higher one. States appraise their own resources and the needs of their own people.

The Act is designed to do effectively in public assistance what



"Keep your chin up, Sonny"

By
Frank Bane

Executive Director, Social Security Board

ULTIMATELY the importance of what happened on August 14, 1935, the day the President signed the Social Security Act, will be found in a single step—the introduction of *order* into the attack on poverty in this country. Out of the chaos of the depression has come a reasoned plan. This plan was conceived in a non-partisan spirit and adopted by an overwhelming vote of the members of both political parties in Congress. As the law becomes operative the program has a wider support than it drew at any earlier period.

I have already noted somewhere that little of the material in the program is new. Only the combination is new. The various parts of the social security struc-

ture—the concrete in the foundations, the steel in the girders, the lumber and the fittings—have been lying around for a long time.

It is not new, for instance, to regard welfare as a function of government. We brought that idea with us when we came to this country as colonists of Great Britain. For a very long time, too, we have believed in insuring ourselves against old age, against death, against mishap. The Social Security Act combines methods that are as traditional as these into an ordered attempt to meet the problem of insecurity throughout the Nation. It is the extent of the field of campaign and the reasoned order that is new, neither the problem nor the essential approaches to it.

In all fields but one the Act sets up a dual responsibility between the Federal Government and the States to carry out its purposes. State-Federal cooperation is an established American procedure. In following this tradition the Act also satisfies the demands of common sense.

we have already done in such fields as road-building, education, and forestry—to use Federal funds for welfare purposes, to combine Federal grants with local funds to accomplish these ends, to leave the administration of pooled resources to authorities near to the source of need. Already we have some reason to believe that this approach is effective.

State-Federal systems on this model now operate in 41 States, in the District of Columbia, and Hawaii. More than \$91,000,000 in Federal grants have been made and estimates from the States show that more than 1,000,000 needy persons were being aided in September of this year.

Unemployment compensation lies in another field. Here again the Act provides for cooperation between the States and the Federal Government. As in public



An American tragedy of the past

assistance, no State has an unemployment compensation law unless its own legislature enacts one. No single type of plan is insisted upon.

The Social Security Board has approved methods of unemployment compensation which range from a provision for a pooled fund out of which compensation



Benefits of social security will be felt by children of the other side of the railroad track



*Clouds removed from
her setting sun . .*

is paid to all eligible persons, to a plan which permits employers who have a good employment record to contribute less to a pooled fund than those who have frequent lay-offs.

Another approved system sets up employer-reserve accounts from which compensation is paid to an unemployed worker solely from his own employer's account. Another law combines the features of several plans. The variety of procedure is wide in this field. Each State also decides for itself the number of weeks for which compensation is paid and in what amounts. A State fixes the period of unemployment that must elapse before compensation begins. Each State administers its own law and, when procedures are found to be efficient and reasonably designed to pay compensation when due, the Federal Government pays the

cost of administration. At this time unemployment compensation laws are in operation in 15 States and the District of Columbia.

Through taxation which is uniform throughout the country, the Social Security Act does not permit an employer in a State with an unemployment compensation system to be placed under a disadvantage in selling his goods in a common market as against employers in States where there is no such law. State unemployment compensation laws are, in effect, a charging back to industry of the cost of unemployment. Here is an analogy with accident compensation, now generally accepted through the country as a legitimate charge upon the commodity produced. The victim of a work accident has a basis in common law in making his claim; modern industry is so constituted

that the victim of unemployment is in the same plight as an injured worker in regard to his inability to control his fate. It is true that unemployment compensation laws create a new direct obligation of the employer not yet established in common law.

The prevention rather than the alleviation of dependency in old age is a fundamental concern. If the care of the needy is urgent today, it will be more urgent tomorrow. In late years more than one-third of our citizens over the age of 65 have become dependent. The proportion is rising. The situation in which this advanced industrial civilization finds itself is that the means of prolonging life have improved, that the population in our old-age group is therefore mounting rapidly and that, as science lengthens the span of human life, new techniques in industry and the strain they bring to bear on those who operate them force the worker into retirement at an increasingly early age.

There is a new expectancy of life on the one hand and a new expectancy of leisure on the other. We have it in our power to make this a blessing. That will not come about except through a sense of security. This means a system by which workers earn during their productive years an income for their later ones. In the light of our traditions, according to our social system, these benefits should be in proportion to the payment for work. The incentive to contribute to production must be kept intact with, at the same time, the certainty that a reward will not disappear. Reward should come in the later years when it is likely to be most needed.

The problem is not peculiar to us; other nations have met the situation earlier than we. We have their experience to draw upon.

It was apparent from the beginning that a system of old-age benefits must be approached from the point of view of the Nation rather than from the point of view of the States. Benefits as

provided in the Act are a matter of right based on earnings and this right does not vary from State to State.

American jobs and their seekers shift freely across State lines. Since an accurate record of employment through the years must be kept for each individual, an attempt to pay benefits on information collected by the States would result in confusion.

Wage records for some 26,000,000 wage earners under 3,000,000 employers will be kept from January 1, 1937. It is a Federal project of considerable proportions. More than half the gainfully employed population of the country will be protected under the old-age benefit section of the Act. In setting up the individual wage records, only a necessary minimum of information will be required but it must be adequate to establish identity and to record earnings in the included occupations up to the age of retirement. Death benefits and lump-sum benefits to wage earners who have reached the age of 65 are payable after the beginning of next year, and monthly benefits begin to accrue at that time also. The payment of monthly benefits to those who qualify starts on January 1, 1942.

Except in compensation for unemployment, the Act deals with security at the two ends of the life span. The provisions concerned directly with children are already in operation: Aid offered through State-Federal public-assistance systems to dependent children who are cared for by relatives and in addition services for special groups of the young on whose behalf the Act makes direct appropriations.

It is at the other end of the scale, in the problems of elderly people, that our traditions lack precedents for relief on a nationwide scale. Here the framers of the Act faced a significant choice of methods. Three methods were proposed by different groups. One group would have been content with an extension of the system which we have had for years by which aged persons receive



... He, too, sees security in declining days

assistance in proportion to their current need. The method was outlined in the Elizabethan Poor Law of 1601 and since then its principles have always been in operation.

A second group proposed a flat-rate gratuity without counting need. Critics of this method question its feasibility and its justice.

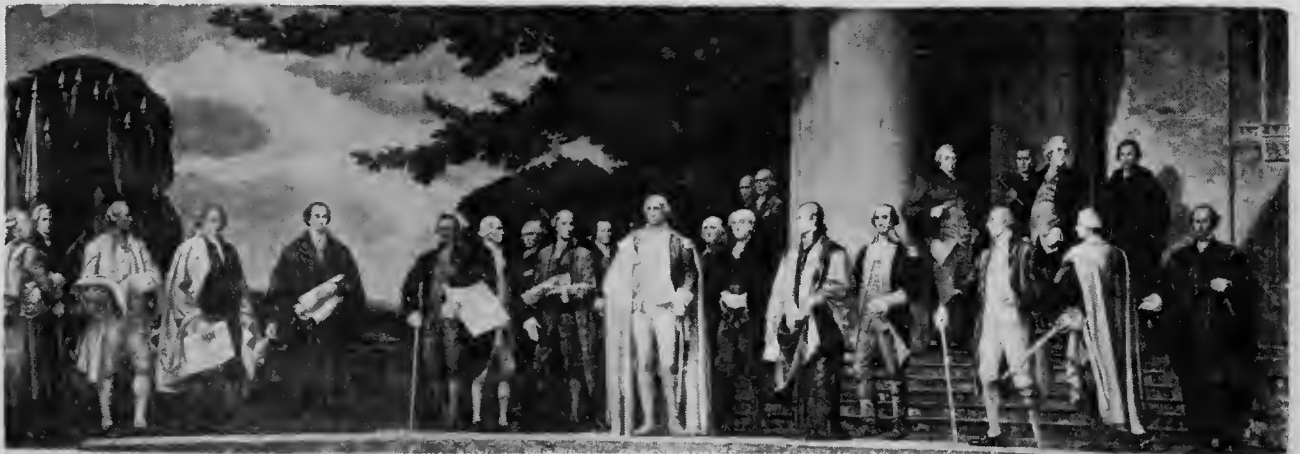
A third proposal was to borrow from the field of insurance a principle which has operated in the national systems of Great Britain and Germany for many years—an opportunity for wage earners to acquire a basic income for themselves upon retirement, without regard to any other means they may possess and with a guarantee of payment from the Federal Government as the ultimate source of credit.

The Social Security Act combines the first method and the third—the first because immediate needs must be met, the

third because a system which requires that a person must be destitute to receive benefits and then receive them only on a subsistence level no longer satisfies our sense of justice nor our judgment of the Nation's capacity to meet just claims.

Economic readjustments are never easy to achieve in the lives of millions of people, even when a shift can be shown to represent a gain. We expect criticism particularly of those provisions of the Act whose principles are less familiar in this country. Studies in the field of social security continue. The Act itself provides funds for this purpose and directs the recommendation of needed changes. Members of the Social Security Board would be the last persons, I imagine, to describe the Act as a perfect piece of legislation. But we do not expect to see a retreat from the effort to substitute order for disorder in this field.

Growth of the Federal City



Mural in the new Archives Building depicting George Washington and other leaders in the War for Independence at the signing of the Constitution

"I AM a Roman citizen," was the proudest boast of the ancient Roman. But in Washington, capital of the world's greatest democracy, more than half a million persons are denied the right of suffrage enjoyed by their fellow Americans.

The District of Columbia is unique in this respect. In every other capital city of the civilized world the franchise is the citizen's birthright. But in Washington citizens are powerless to participate even in the fiscal affairs of their city.

Unlike most capitals of the world, Washington is not the result of a gradual development from some forests and swamps in a pioneer land. It is a planned city in every sense.

A serious riot of mutinous soldiers of the Continental Army of 1783 in the then capital at Philadelphia was responsible for the idea of establishing a capital city which would be free from threats of intimidation from mobs and armed minorities.

Shortly after the riot a motion was introduced in Congress by Elbridge Gerry of Massachusetts, which for the first time suggested the Potomac region near Georgetown as one of the sites for the capital.

Sectional jealousy for four

years prevented carrying out of the plan. Both the North and South wanted the new capital. For a time there were whispered threats of secession and a dissolution of the Union. A compromise finally was reached whereby Thomas Jefferson agreed to persuade the Southern delegates to vote for the assumption by the Government of debts contracted by the states during the War for Independence and Alexander Hamilton agreed to persuade the North to withdraw opposition to a southern site for the capital.

President Washington had much to do with the final selection of the present site of the capital. As a boy he had ridden through most of the District territory and had admired its topography. While serving under General Braddock he had camped a night on the present site of the Naval Observatory.

The Compromise Act, popularly known as the "Residence Act" because it provided a permanent home for the Government, was adopted on July 9, 1790.

It is believed that the first Europeans to visit the vicinity of the District of Columbia were Spaniards. Old records show they named the Potomac the "Espiritu Santo" and the Chesapeake the "Bay of St. Mary." The District

site originally was the area occupied by the Powhatan Indians, a sub-tribe of the Algonquins. Their council house was located at the foot of the hill where now stands the Capitol of the United States. Captain John Smith is believed to be the first Englishman to visit the vicinity. He reported the Indian name of the Potomac was "Patawomecke."

To Major Pierre Charles L'Enfant, a French engineer, goes the glory of laying out the plans for the world's most beautiful capital. Despite a number of deviations, L'Enfant's original plans have been generally carried out. The great Frenchman, a kinsman of D'Estaing, who came to this country in the train of the patriotic Lafayette, now is buried in front of the Lee mansion in Arlington National Cemetery.

The L'Enfant plan embodied a series of broad avenues intersecting the streets at acute angles and making possible a city of splendid vistas. Friction developed early between the fiery Frenchman and the commissioners named to make provision for the capital city. L'Enfant refused to make his plans public because he feared speculators would seize upon choice locations and destroy his broad avenues with cheap buildings. With the permission of

General Washington, L'Enfant finally was dismissed. A disappointed and prematurely aged man, he lived in the District of Columbia until his death in 1825. L'Enfant frequently petitioned Congress, without success, for redress for real or fancied arrears in pay.

L'Enfant was succeeded by his assistant, Andrew Elliott, a Pennsylvania Quaker, who retained practically all of the original L'Enfant's plans. So today Washington stands as a monument to the vision of L'Enfant.

Land for the embryo city was given by the States of Virginia and Maryland. Provision was made to compensate private property owners where their lands were needed by the new government.

Washington's early government consisted of the rule of commissioners which later was abandoned and then readopted. Today the capital is governed by a board of three commissioners appointed by the President.

The unpopularity of the city in its formative days can best be described by epithets hurled at it

by its critics such as "Capital of Miserable Huts," the "Wilderness City," "City of Streets Without Houses," and "City of Magnificent Distances," which strangely has today become a description of praise.

Washington's first and most serious reverse occurred in the war of 1812 when the British captured and burned the Capitol, White House, the Treasury, State and Navy buildings, a number of private homes and the offices of the National Intelligencer, whose comments had aroused the ire of the British troops.

The capital made a slow growth until the Civil War, when the city's 60,000 population was increased by the presence of troops and other military agencies to a quarter of a million persons. A similar rapid growth occurred when America entered the World War in 1917.

In 1846 Congress gave back the 30 square miles south of the Potomac acquired from the State of Virginia. This territory included Arlington county and the City of Alexandria.

Following the British attack

Washington only once since has been threatened by invasion. That was during the Civil War shortly after the Battle of the Wilderness when General Jubal A. Early, with part of Lee's troops, got as far as the defenses of the city. General Early's losses the previous day at the Battle of the Monocacy River, 35 miles from Washington, prevented him from actually entering the capital.

Washington had seen a commission form of government and had been ruled as a military district. From 1820 until 1871 it was governed by mayors elected biennially by popular vote. Another form of government was tried when an act was passed dissolving Washington and Georgetown as separate municipalities and making the District of Columbia a single municipality. This was known as the territorial government and the first governor was Henry D. Cooke who took office in 1871. Next followed a temporary commission government which was succeeded by the three-man commission form of government which prevails today.



The capital of the United States as it appears today

More Power to You . . .

DOWN in the Tennessee Valley the first long-range regional development in America has been undertaken, which in three years has recorded progress that is commanding world attention.

The Tennessee Valley Authority, under whose direction this development has taken place, is not an emergency agency, but a permanent and independent Federal organization. President Roosevelt characterizes it as "a corporation clothed with the powers of government, but possessed of the flexibility and initiative of private enterprise."

On a recent visit to that area, the President told the Valley people that what is going on here is "an example which will be a benefit not only to yourselves, but to the whole 130,000,000 Americans in every part of the country."

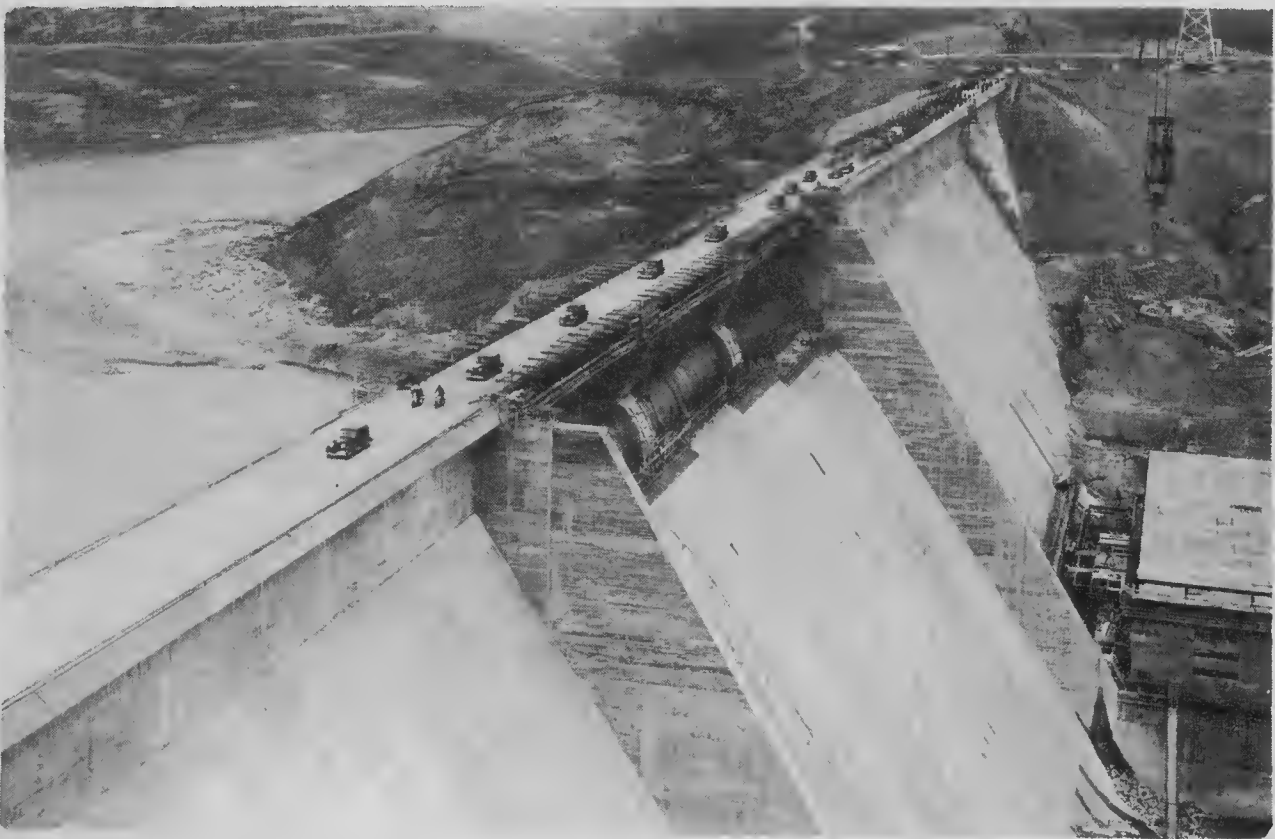
Under the Tennessee Valley Authority Act, approved May 18, 1933, definite progress has been made in the development and control of the Tennessee river system in the joint interests of navigation and flood control. In addition there is utilization of surplus power, as a basis for the general stimulation of a region embracing parts of seven states with an area approximating that of England and a population nearly as large as Norway's.

In its many activities TVA is not forcing anything on the Valley people. Whether it is electric service, agricultural aid or other ways in which the Authority offers a helping hand, the initiative must be made locally. In other words, mutual problems are being worked out by the Authority in cooperation with State, county and community groups.

Nor is the TVA doing anything of a radical nature. Most of its activities find precedence of long standing in the work of old-line Government departments and bureaus. The chief difference is that the TVA is coordinating and intensifying in a large area what previously has been tried out here and there spasmodically on a small scale over a long period. In brief, the Tennessee Valley has become the proving ground for the type of "national planning" that President Roosevelt had in mind.

Preliminary benefits of this development to the rest of the country are already manifest:

At least half of the money spent for materials to date has been spread outside of the Valley—profiting business in 37 states, from New England to the Pacific coast. A considerable portion of



Dedication parade atop Norris Dam

TVA's payroll has likewise found its way into national circulation.

By employing local residents as far as possible, the Authority is indirectly relieving unemployment in outside industrial centers which formerly drew many Valley people unable to earn a living at home. Every individual employed by TVA means income and subsistence for three or more persons.

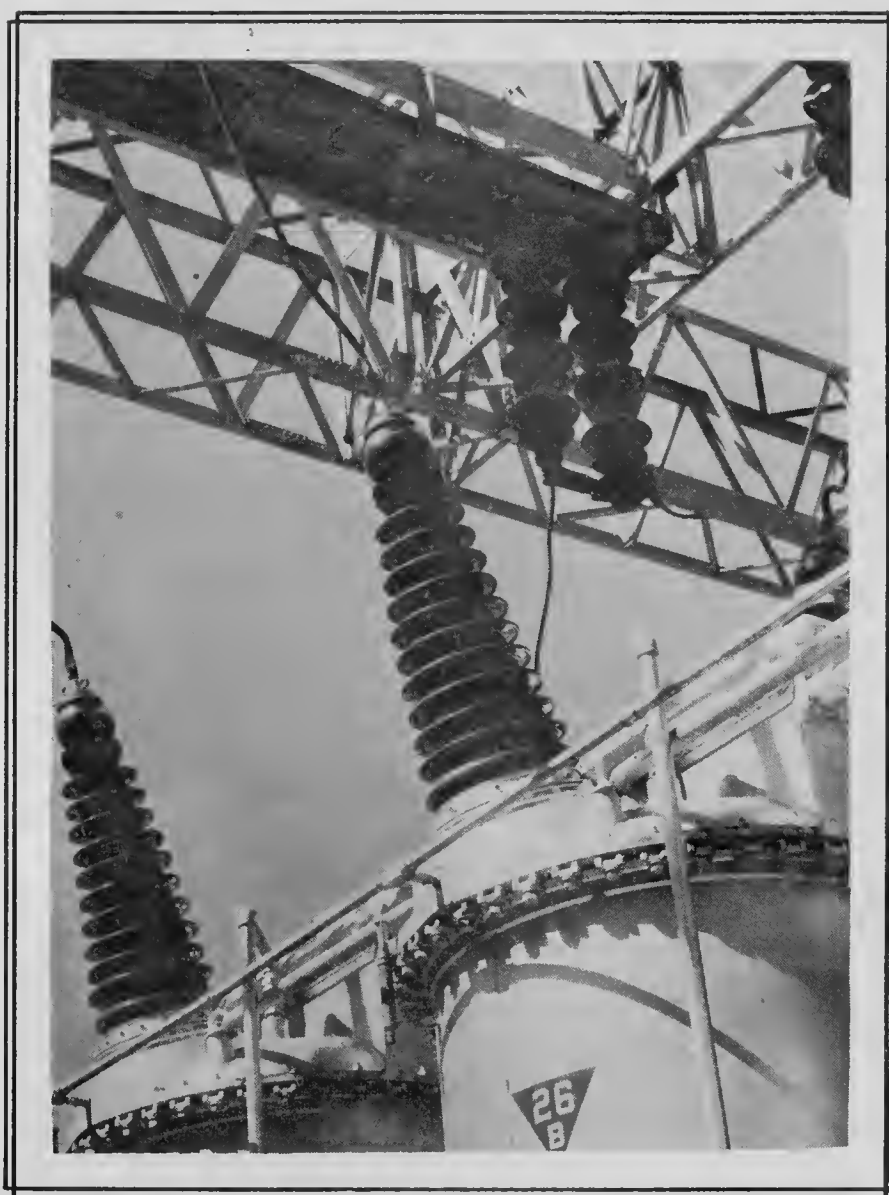
Other indirect benefits achieved in the Valley include:

To date the Authority has turned over to the United States Treasury nearly \$2,000,000 from sale of power at Wilson Dam alone. Last year Wilson Dam grossed 100 per cent more revenue than the year previous, breaking all its prior generation records.

Electric rates in the nation as a whole have been reduced nearly \$50,000,000 a year, which is more than the whole TVA program cost in the same period. At the same time private industry also benefits through more general use of electricity, and the pump has been primed for increased use of appliances, profiting the manufacturer and dealer as well as the user.

It is significant that the greatest increase in the business prosperity of private power companies in the entire country has taken place right in the TVA area. This is exemplified by action of the Edison Electric Institute in citing a private power company in Tennessee for establishing "one of the most, if not the most, remarkable sales increases in residential, commercial and industrial power in the history of the electrical industry."

The happy combination of low rates and inexpensive electric appliances under TVA incentive has, in the case of three leading private power companies in that area, reduced rates 30 per cent, as compared with a national reduction of only 8 per cent, yet at the same time has increased consumption nearly 40 per cent, as against a national increase of but 11 per cent.



This promotion has turned what the private utilities once regarded as a surplus of power in that area into an acute shortage. This is the situation which the TVA power program will remedy, particularly if both private and public interests there pool their resources for public and mutual benefits.

Norris Dam was completed in early 1936 and its two generators were put to work later in the year. Until then, Wilson Dam had been the only source of TVA power, its energy being distributed to 16 communities and more than a dozen rural power cooperatives in nearly 50 counties in Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi,

and Tennessee. TVA power is wholesaled only, with public bodies themselves doing the retailing. The only exceptions are several large industrial contracts and a few temporary arrangements pending organization of farm power groups.

Despite the drouth of 1936, regulated release of water from Norris Dam enabled downstream Wilson Dam to increase its generating capacity by 281 per cent, thereby aiding its biggest customer—a private power company with which it has an interchange agreement.

More than 500 overtures have been received from municipalities, counties and industry look-

ing toward use of TVA power. Nearly 50 municipalities have voted favorably on the proposition, including three of the largest cities in that area—Chattanooga, Knoxville and Memphis. Under its creative Act, the Authority must give prime consideration to public bodies. As an economic proposition, it must first serve those closest to the source of supply.

TVA power is retailed by contracting municipalities and by farm cooperatives at less than half the national average. This has increased residential consumption an average of 90 per cent in areas served. TVA rates cover all costs of service, with provision for taxes to the amount of 12½ per cent, in order to make a fair comparison with privately owned utilities. In effect, the TVA power policies constitute a "yardstick" for both public and private operation.

The TVA power program with respect to Wilson Dam (Ashwander case) was upheld by the United States Supreme Court on February 17, 1936.

As regards to national defense,

the Tennessee Valley Authority Act requires Nitrate Plant No. 2 at Muscle Shoals to be maintained in "stand-by" condition in event of war or other emergency. This is being done by TVA. At this plant experiments are being conducted with phosphates for military purposes. Studies are also being made in the development of manganese and other mineral deposits in the Valley which, besides being potentially useful to industry, fit into the national defense program.

Still another phase is creation of a reserve of power which can be transferred to other sections of the country through interchange agreements.

A peace-time utilization of Nitrate Plant No. 2 is experimentation with fertilizer materials. With electric furnaces using Wilson Dam power, the Authority has produced some 40,000 tons of triple superphosphate which is being distributed to 20,000 demonstration farms throughout the Valley and to 13 outside states. These farms are selected by State agricultural agencies, which also supervise application of the phos-

phate under local agreements. The TVA furnishes the material gratis; the local group pays the freight. None is sold. The phosphate is used for stimulating cover crops only, not food crops.

The TVA also aided in the comprehensive program for rural electrification. New electric lines extended by the Rural Electrification Administration have been a blessing to the farmers benefited. In addition to providing new household equipment, electricity has made possible a number of practical money-making improvements on farms, such as poultry lighting, water pumping, soil heating and other electrically operated equipment.

TVA has already accomplished much in raising the general standard of living in the Tennessee valley. However, these benefits extend far beyond this region. As President Roosevelt pointed out, "If we are successful here, we can march on, step by step, in a like development of other great natural territorial units within our borders."



Wilson Dam in operation

The Old Mill Grinds Again . . .

*"I wandered by the brookside,
I wandered by the mill;
I could not hear the brook flow,
The noisy wheel was still."*

AND so it was. It was a pity, too. It had been such a nice old mill, nestling there in the lap of the foothills, on the granite banks of the some-time turbulent stream called Rock Creek.

One hundred and sixteen years ago, it was considered quite the thing to own a grist mill along Rock Creek, in the park of the same name in the Northwest section of the District of Columbia. And so, in 1820, Isaac Pierce built his mill there, on a parcel of land originally called "The Gift," because the King had given it to Samuel Bealls, who sold it to a Revolutionary patriot, William Deakins, who in turn conveyed to Isaac Pierce.

Now Isaac Pierce was not a miller. He built a mill because, as we have just said, it was considered stylish to own a mill on Rock Creek. Many fine gentlemen owned mills there. John Quincy Adams, for instance.

But Isaac Pierce was a millwright. He built the best mill of them all. In the first place, he built at a point where the water was ample and swift. A long time ago Rock Creek was a rip-roaring little body of water. It used to go on seasonal rampages, and wreak great havoc. An old journal tells of four horses drowning near where Isaac Pierce built his mill.

Various millers operated Pierce Mill. There were Donald, Tennyson, Gaskins, Fleckker, Donald again, and Gaskins again. Then came the Brothers White, who were there as late as 1917, when the Government took over virtually every mill in the country, and "reflowed" them to produce that black, heavy substance called "War Flour."

But Pierce Mill really petered out as a commercial enterprise many years before the War. In 1897, Mr. A. P. White (of the



Brothers White) made this entry in his journal:

"I was grinding a load of rye for a neighbor when the main shaft of the mill broke. I was about half way through with the work, and the neighbor had to haul his unground rye away, and I guess he never got it ground. I have been told that I might make some arrangements with the park authorities to fix up and run the mill again, but after putting it to work again, the government might want to change things around, and I would be taking too big a chance.

"A water mill grinding wheat and corn in the Capital of the United States would be a strange sight to most of the city-bred people of Washington."

From the end of the War until 1933, various individuals and societies interested themselves in the old mill, not because of its historical value altogether, but for its commercial worth. They operated Isaac Pierce's grist mill as a tea room.

From 1929 until 1933, the Welfare and Recreational Association of Public Buildings and Grounds, a quasi-government agency, served tea there, using the profits, if any, to maintain the property. But most visitors to Rock Creek Park cared very little for tea, and so the old mill was forever closed as a sandwich shop.

Then came the Roosevelt Administration, with its far-flung recovery program. Pierce Mill was singled out as one of the thousands of worth-while landmarks of history that could be restored to provide work for the unemployed.

Restoration of Pierce Mill was begun in 1934 by the Department of the Interior. The job has been completed now, a water mill grinding wheat and corn in the Capital of the United States. Peg for peg, wooden cog for wooden cog, it is an exact duplicate of the mill Isaac Pierce built in 1820.

Serving Science

BEHIND the scenes at the Smithsonian Institution, where the painstaking work of research and the classification of specimens proceeds constantly, a large force of WPA workers fights the ever-present threat of deterioration which would cheat the scholars of tomorrow from one of the world's most complete scientific collections.

Bones, skulls, fragments of pottery, and thousands of other items of scientific and historical importance are received yearly by the Smithsonian for classification and preservation. With this steady influx, examples and models of the latest brain children in modern industrial science arrive, waiting ironically for the passage of time to transform them into specimens of historical value.

With the urgent need for supplementary aid at the Smithsonian, 78 men and women from WPA rolls were assigned to assist the regular staff in performing routine duties connected with the arrangement and preservation of specimens belonging to the National collections.

Today, as this sizeable force works elbow to elbow with some of the world's famous scientists, important chapters are written in the archives of science. As Dr. Ales Hrdlicka, curator of Physical Anthropology, returns from the Aleutian Islands with startling additions to the famed collections, he finds his assistants have been directing WPA workers in labeling hundreds of skulls from the races of the world. Counting his grand total, Dr. Hrdlicka finds 16,000 specimens of skulls uniformly reposing in study and exhibition trays. In other trays, fragments of skeletons, hundreds of years old, await classification and labeling.

In Smithsonian's library, America's most complete collection of



An ancient piece of pottery is restored

scientific information, the WPA has stepped forward to assist in the vast assignment of cataloging all divisional libraries of the Institution, a total of 850,000 volumes. There are 45 libraries in all, including sectional libraries, the largest being the 550,000 volume deposit in the Library of Congress. These workers are principally employed in arranging and cataloging books so that these may be available for immediate use. Since thousands of tomes are in foreign languages, this project has called for workers possessing a knowledge of foreign tongues. The work of cleaning, preserving, and binding has given others employment in this division.

New talents are born among the ranks of the WPA workers at Smithsonian. A former bond

salesman and an erstwhile electrician have become surprisingly adept in the specialized art of restoring early American pottery. Working under William H. Egberts, Anthropology Preparator, these two men are piecing together bits of pottery into vases and urns coming to them often in scores of pieces. Using a special cementing agent and plaster of paris, ancient ceramic products are re-assembled much like a jig-saw puzzle, the design serving as a guide. The completed articles will furnish aid in the preparation of another chapter in the history of aboriginal America.

Dr. Frederick L. Lewton, curator of textiles, is directing WPA craftsmen in the repair of thousands of inventors' models, a

transfer from the Patent Office. Dusty and with many of them badly damaged in moving, the tiny models, an Odyssey of American mechanical trends of the last half century, are being repaired, cleaned, classified and stored for future reference and comparison.

A collection of 20,000 specimens of textiles and 9,000 specimens of various woods are keeping other WPA workers busily employed. Periodically these perishable articles are fumigated and cleaned to discourage the slightest attack of parasites. Incoming contributions from hundreds of textile and lumber mills from all parts of the world are constantly being classified and stored. As in other Smithsonian departments, it is possible for Dr. Lewton to compare immediately a sample of any wood or cloth to determine its pedigree, composition, and relationships.

Under Dr. E. A. Chapin, curator of the Division of Insects, WPA workers are helping condition the immense Smithsonian collection of over 4,000,000 insects. Constant additions and replacements, coupled with the delicate job of preserving specimens, creates an immeasurable assignment for Dr. Chapin and his staff to perform without supplementary aid.

Dr. W. R. Maxon, associate curator of the Division of Plants, is using 14 Works Progress employees to aid in an analysis of the National Herbarium, a collection of nearly 2,000,000 plant specimens. Some workers are assisting the regular staff by typing

manuscript notes, eventually to be used in publications; others are transcribing original descriptions to herbarium sheets. Three supplementary workers are aiding the research staff in editorial work, principally in connection with the final revision of an extensive bibliography of the Botany of Eastern Asia.

The endless job of conditioning specimens to resist the ravages of time and deterioration can well be

appreciated by considering the proportions of the aggregate collections of the Institution. There are four huge buildings virtually filled with exhibition and study collections. But those acquisitions which meet the spectator's eye at the Smithsonian are only about one-tenth of the entire collection.

The remainder, which are of great scientific value, are systematically stored for study purposes. Exhibits are viewed on an average by a throng of nearly 7,000 persons daily, roughly 2,000,000 a year.

Tasks at the Smithsonian are not confined to research and preparation of exhibits. Thousands of pieces of correspondence pass to and from the departments each month, asking and answer-

ing scientific questions. This constitutes another phase of the Institution's activity for "the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men".

Assistance from the Works Progress Administration has had a two-fold benefit, according to John E. Graf, of the National Museum. An immense volume of arrearage work has been accomplished, and the time gained by the regular staff in being relieved of a great deal of purely routine work has greatly increased their freedom for more important duties of a scientific nature. These widespread benefits are found throughout virtually every department. General handy-men, typists, statisticians, and scores of other types of helpers have bolstered the staff.



WPA worker aids anthropologist

ALL 1932 OFFICE OF THE ASSESSOR, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA No. 100,000

VALUE TANGIBLE PROPERTY	RATE PER 100	TAX TANGIBLE PROPERTY	VALUE INTANGIBLE PROPERTY	RATE PER 100	TAX INTANGIBLE PROPERTY	TOTAL TAX
10000	1.70	170.00	500,000	.50	2500.00	2670.00
PENALTY						%
TOTAL DUE						

PERSONAL TAX FOR FISCAL YEAR 1932

JOHN DOE,
9000 16TH STREET N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C.

CREDIT: 9004 PERSONAL TANGIBLE,
9006 PERSONAL INTANGIBLE.

FORM APPROVED BY COMPT. GEN'L'S OFFICE, APRIL 20, 1929

TO THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, DR. PAY TO THE COLLECTOR OF TAXES, D.C.

13-1309

Wouldn't Pay **A**ssessor *until...*

THE District of Columbia has been enriched approximately \$300,000 through the efforts of 19 WPA workers assigned to the Assessor's office. And the job is only nine per cent complete!

That is the story to date of a "white collar" project established last Fall with an allotment of \$15,324 to run from October 10, 1935 to October 10, 1936.

Officials of the Assessor's office are well pleased with the results achieved and look hopefully for the project's continuance. C. A. Russell, the official in charge of the work, said:

"The work done in this office by the WPA has been very effective and I am sure the task could not have been accomplished without this help. I may state, also, that the class of workers assigned has been uniformly good. They have shown an eagerness to cooperate in every manner and they have been able and efficient in all the duties to which they have been assigned."

At the outset of the project, the WPA workers delved into old personal tax records for the fiscal years from 1924 to 1934. Delinquent accounts in these years were tabulated, lists were written and data compiled upon which it was possible to send a corps of men into the field to remind delinquents that their taxes were unpaid.

The number of notices served during this time approximated 2,200. Personal service was necessary and a receipt required from the person to whom the notice was delivered. In 98 per cent of the cases contacted, favorable results were accomplished, resulting in the collection of about \$98,500. In addition, promises were obtained from many others that the tax would be paid at the first opportunity.

Notwithstanding the results already accomplished, this project is only begun, since the accounts for 1935, 1936 and coming into 1937 remain to be treated in the same manner.

Also assigned to a group of these workers was the job of advising taxpayers of special assessments that stand against their property and of which they probably were not aware. This work has resulted in the service of about 5,107 notices with a total collection of about \$207,950.

WPA workers have likewise been assigned to advise persons whose real estate taxes have not been paid and who are faced with the sale of their property. In this branch of work, gratifying results were obtained.

In addition to this work, old maps, records, cards and data that is invaluable to the office, but which have not been kept current because of the lack of sufficient personnel, have been brought up to date so that the records of the Assessor's office, both in real estate and personal tax matters, and also special assessment, are in much better shape than they have been for years.

National Capital Parks



WASHINGTON, known as the "City Beautiful," did not reach that eminence just by accident. Its future was carefully planned as long ago as 1790.

Laying the groundwork for the most pretentious parks system in the world, Congress in that year passed an act setting up the National Capital Parks unit of the Interior Department. George Washington, the first president, under terms of that act purchased 17 reservations, the nucleus for a system which today embraces 693 reservations, including more than 7,156 acres, or approximately 11 square miles.

First consideration was given the Mall, the Capitol grounds and the White House grounds. From time to time other parks were created on the remaining reservations, the chief ones being the Monument Grounds, Lafayette, Judiciary, Garfield, and West Potomac Parks.

The original areas allotted for streets were exceedingly wide and permitted establishment of parks, circles and triangles at the various

intersections. From such areas came Lincoln, Farragut, Stanton, McPherson, Marion and Mount Vernon Parks; Washington, Scott, Thomas and Logan Circles, and many small triangles.

As Washington grew in size and importance, additional areas were acquired for park development. The principal acquisitions included the rest of West Potomac Park, East Potomac Park, Rock Creek Park, Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway, Theodore Roosevelt Island, Mount Vernon Memorial Highway and Anacostia Park.

The staggering task of caring for this so-called "background" is left to the Construction and Maintenance Division of the National Capital Parks. This ponderous burden is shared by the Works Progress Administration and the Public Works Administration.

A WPA crew of 105 men is improving 60 small triangles throughout the city. Work for the most part includes grading, landscaping, seeding and the construction of ledges and coping. Invaluable flood control work re-

cently completed by WPA included a general raising of the level of the Monument grounds and construction of a dike between the Lincoln Memorial and the Navy Building.

The Mall, now an unbroken stretch of green, flanked by young American elms, stretching a mile between the Capitol and the Washington Monument, is the outstanding development in the parks system. At an expense of more than \$1,000,000, temporary war-time buildings have been demolished; 333 trees have been planted; four miles of highways constructed; 37½ acres landscaped and seeded; bronze lamp-posts erected; and the Botanical Garden at the foot of the Capitol has been converted into a well groomed park.

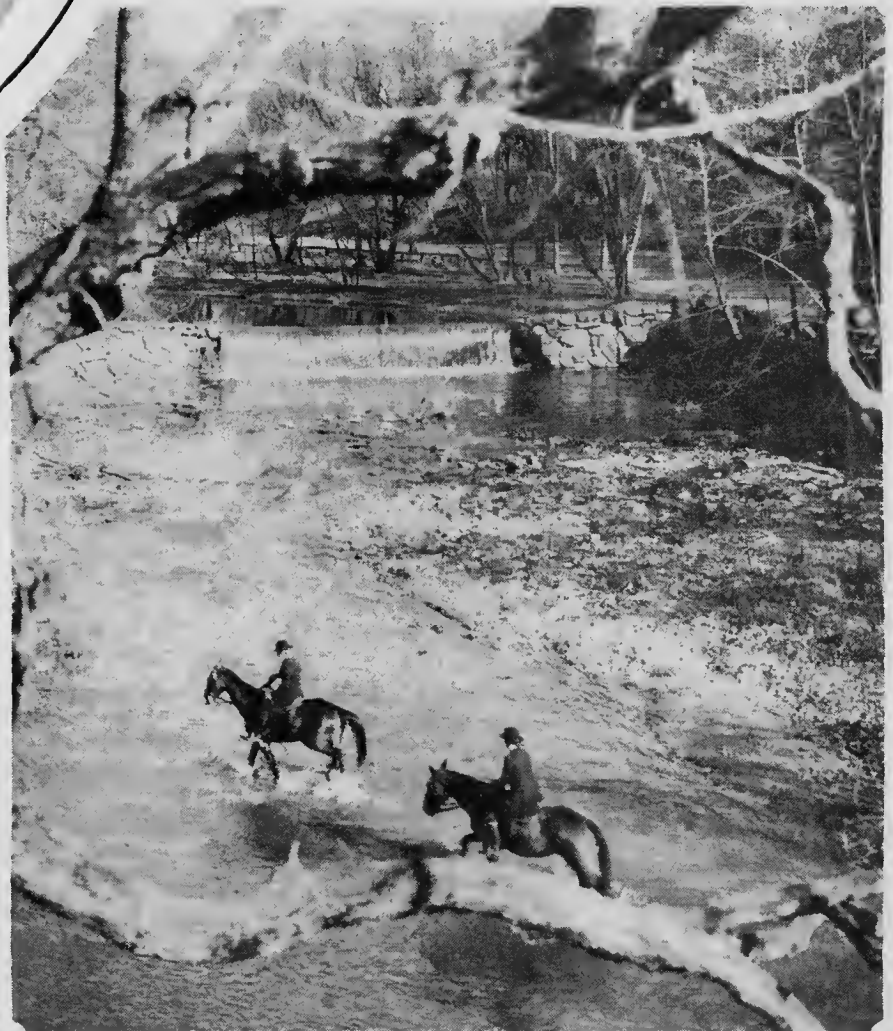
Let us drive northwest to Rock Creek Park, one of the largest (1,800 acres) and most unusual parks in America. Again we find WPA busily engaged. From Beach Drive, the main thoroughfare, two strips of road are nearing completion: Bingham Drive, and Piney Branch Parkway.



The parks of Washington constitute its great natural glory, celebrated throughout the world. At extreme left is a winter scene in Rock Creek Park. Below are the beautiful cascades of Meridian Park. In the oval are seen the famous Japanese cherry blossoms that annually draw many thousands of visitors. At the lower right is a bridle path ford in Rock Creek Park.



*Photo by
National Park Service*





"What greater beauty does man know
Than trees bedecked with snow."

Located north of National Zoological Park, Rock Creek is the largest recreation area in the Capital park system, containing two nine-hole public golf courses, 18 tennis courts, 19 picnic groves, and more than 30 miles of bridle paths. Added to these are Pierce Mill waterfall, Milk House ford, Boulder bridge, Joaquin Miller Cabin and Ridge Road.

Washington's most famous beauty spot, however, lies in West Potomac Park, where bloom the famous Japanese cherry blossoms. People come from all over the world each Spring to enjoy the blossoms, a gift of the City of

Tokyo during the Taft administration.

WPA's West Potomac Park operations include grading and landscaping of the land along Georgetown Channel from Constitution Avenue to K Street. This entire area suffered greatly during last Spring's flood but is rapidly being reconditioned by the WPA.

Entering East Potomac Park, 327 acres reclaimed through the dredging of the Washington Channel, one comes upon the Washington Rose Garden, containing many interesting varieties and presenting a fragrant and colorful

display throughout most of the year. Close by is the Washington tourist camp, screened from public view by careful planting.

An outstanding feature of this park is the double-blossom variety of Japanese cherry trees, which bloom about two weeks after the single-blossom trees. Although not as widely heralded as the Tidal Basin trees, the double blossoms are accepted locally as the most beautiful exhibit in the Washington parks.

Bordering East Potomac, scene of one of the finest golf courses in the city, is the three-and-one-half-mile Speedway, which culminates at Hains Point at the confluence of the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers. A WPA crew recently completed extensive grading and drainage work in the Hains Point sector.

Anacostia Park is a 277-acre tract situated in the southeastern quarter. Devoted almost exclusively to recreational purposes, it contains a well-equipped 18-hole golf course (an additional course is under construction by WPA at Benning Road and Twenty-fourth Street), 10 tennis courts, 4 baseball diamonds, 4 football fields and a number of croquet and quoit courts.

In October WPA began clearing underbrush and demolishing dilapidated structures in Anacostia Park preparatory to constructing the long-planned Municipal Stadium. Scheduled to cover 12 acres in the neighborhood of Nineteenth and East Capitol Streets, Municipal Stadium will be suitable for Olympic and all other athletic requirements.

Although all the remaining parks, circles and triangles are being constantly groomed, the only other reservation that calls for particular notation at this writing is Meridian Hill Park on Sixteenth Street between Euclid and W Streets. Through PWA this sumptuous Italian Garden, with its high terrace, great water cascade and heroic statues of President Buchanan, Joan of Arc and Dante, was completed in early October.

"LET THERE BE LIGHT"

Federal Emergency Funds Advance Education

By

J. H. Studebaker

United States Commissioner of Education

JUST ten months ago it was announced that the President, the Bureau of the Budget, and the Comptroller General had approved the allotment of nearly \$2,000,000 from the Emergency Relief Fund to the Office of Education, U. S. Department of the Interior, for the development of five projects important to the advancement of American education.

How has the Office of Education made use of these funds? How many of the unemployed have been given work? What has been accomplished to date?

As United States Commissioner of Education, I have given general direction to the five Office of Education projects, practically all of which have been carried forward under the management of state and local education officials. The Office of Education has acted as a coordinating and clearing house agency.

The projects financed with emergency funds and supervised by the Office of Education are University Research; Public Affairs Forums; Study of Opportunities for Vocational Education and Guidance for Negroes; Education by Radio, and Survey of Local School Units.

Seventy-three universities in 40 States have been allotted project funds for prosecution of studies in the University Research Project. Former graduate students and college graduates without employment in these universities conduct research studies of a wide variety under supervision of staff members of universities and colleges, with the cooperation of Office of Education staff members. Skilled research workers,



DR. STUDEBAKER

technical and clerical workers such as librarians, statisticians, and stenographers, have been given employment on this particular educational project.

More than 83 per cent of the total project expenditures have been for relief wages. Only 6.8 per cent of the total expenditures have been for materials needed to carry on this type of cooperative university study. Workers employed on the University Research Project September 10 numbered 467.

The Public Affairs Forum Project has been of peculiar interest to me. Through use of Emer-

gency Relief Funds, we established 10 forum demonstration centers to operate this fall and winter until February 1, 1937.

The President recently approved an allotment of \$330,000 to the Office of Education for continuation and expansion of civic education through public forum centers.

Newspaper articles and editorials show marked community enthusiasm and cooperation in bringing forum news to the people. Citizens themselves decide upon what they want to talk about in the forum. We in the Office of Education help to give

these citizens what they want, in our effort to promote education. Responsibility for the selection of forum leaders and employment of relief workers is left exclusively to local authorities.

Local forum and panel discussion radio programs, audience participation, library cooperation, and a growing number of public forums under various auspices are suggestive of the success of this particular project in stimulating and creating facilities for free and fearless discussion and study of the vital issues which face the mass of today's adults.

More than 225 relief workers are employed on the local public forum projects as artists, assistant librarians, accountants, stenographers, correspondents, messengers, typists, and publicity

workers. More than 370 forum meetings held in the 10 demonstration centers were attended by 36,000 persons.

These demonstration centers point a way—we believe it is “The American Way”—toward an improvement of citizenship through education. They will be serving many more people than those within the communities where programs are sponsored. The experience gained, the techniques used, and problems solved in these 10 places containing nearly 2,000,000 people, will be helpful to hundreds of other American communities interested in building their own public forum programs.

Through the National Survey of Vocational and Educational Guidance for Negroes, the Office

of Education is attempting to determine the availability of vocational education and vocational guidance for Negroes, and also to gather definite information on and to furnish recommendations concerning needed changes and revisions in the vocational education program of Negro schools throughout the country.

In this as in all other projects, it is our effort to fit the study into the work program in such a way as to provide a maximum amount of useful work. This project has employed 503 trained Negroes on relief, persons who had not been able to find other opportunities to secure employment. There were also 31 non-relief persons at work on this survey.

This survey, in 33 States and the District of Columbia, reaches

“The song that nerves a nation's heart—”



into 192 communities. Material collected will be assembled, analyzed, and interpreted in the Office of Education. National and regional conferences are planned to help in diffusing the findings of this survey. Manuals on findings of the study will be furnished Negro educators and Negro youth in an effort to improve the vocational education and guidance programs for Negroes.

The Local School Units Project, employing 1,631 relief workers, is to determine the possibilities for organization of better schools, and for improvement of local public school administration through the organization of more satisfactory local school administrative units.

Many State Departments of Education, realizing the need of studying school administrative organizations, have carried on similar studies on a very limited basis. This Federal endeavor aids the States by fitting into the administrative research scheme already set up, thus doing a better job. The survey is being conducted in Arizona, Arkansas, California, Illinois, Kentucky, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Tennessee.

States participating are contributing services to the local School Units Project estimated conservatively at \$95,000. This need is further indicated by the fact that 31 States desire to participate in this project.

State planning boards, highway, geological, map, taxing and finance departments, and other agencies are assisting in the project.

The fifth project conducted by the Office of Education with Federal Relief funds, that of Educational Radio, has demonstrated that we can develop the potentialities which radio holds for education. Broadcasters have eagerly sought educational programs which would also be good radio. The programs of the Educational Radio Project induce activity or thinking on the part of listeners,

and add to their store of knowledge.

The 72 persons employed on this project were selected from the C.C.C. Camps and WPA relief rolls for their special talents in radio, dramatics, voice, or educational background. At present, 30 persons in Washington are engaged in writing educational radio scripts, doing office, clerical, and research work. Forty-two members of the staff are located in

Radio City, doing chorus and dramatic jobs in connection with the production of five Educational Radio Project programs each week.

A new allocation of \$113,000 for this project will make it possible for experiments and demonstrations in techniques necessary for successful use of radio for education to continue through June, 1937.



Never too old to learn

Oil on Troubled Waters . . .

DID you know that a "war" of major proportions is being waged within the borders of our country?

The United States Public Health Service and the Works Progress Administration will soon complete the third year of vigorous warfare against the mosquito. WPA engineers and laborers in 756 mosquito eradication projects throughout the country are aiding in this important work.

This crusade officially started in November, 1933, by the Public Health Service under the Civil Works Administration, was continued in March 1934 under the Federal Emergency Relief Administration and finally taken up by WPA last October.

Mosquito eradication is effected by two methods. If the swamp or marsh can be used for no other purpose, the infested area is drained of moisture. If the preservation of the area in the interests of wildlife is advisable, the workers spray oil. Both methods have proved highly effective.

Control projects concern themselves not only with curbing resultant diseases but also with

precautionary work in areas still untouched by the pestilence. The main disease being fought is malaria, which, though not a fatal malady in itself, so weakens the victim that he becomes susceptible to more dangerous diseases.

The malaria belt lies south of an imaginary line drawn between Richmond, Va., and St. Louis, Mo., and east of a line through middle Oklahoma and middle Texas. Exactly a dozen States are included in this area: Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Texas.

Contrary to the general notion that mosquito control is summer work entirely, let it be known that the job goes on throughout the year. Since many swamps cannot be entered until the ground is sufficiently frozen to support a man's weight, a great deal of the work is done in winter. During the following spring oil is sprayed on any and all pools to smother the mosquito larvae.

WPA mosquito control projects originate in the States and

are selected by the State health departments concerned. These departments survey the health and technical aspects and collect necessary data. After the State WPA administrator approves the operative features, he contacts Washington for final WPA and Public Health Service approval.

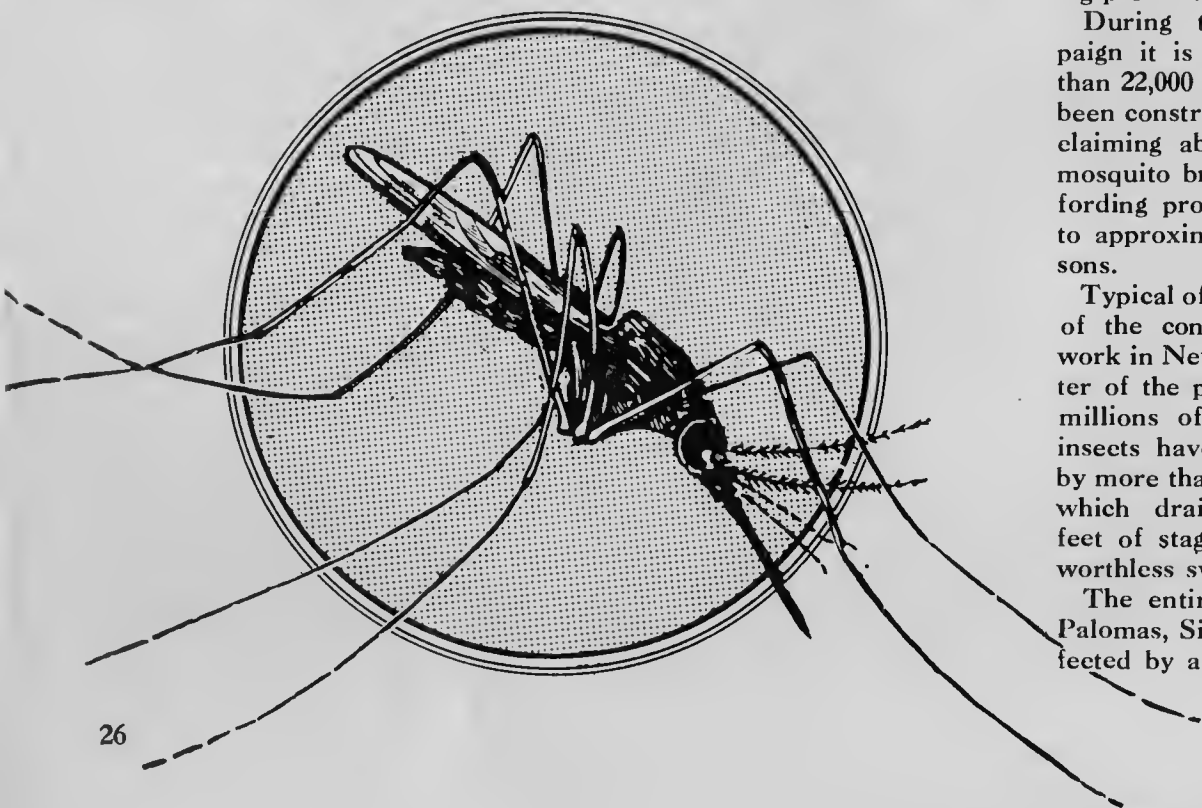
The malaria-transmitting mosquito (*Anopheles quadrimaculatus*) requires quiescent waters such as lakes and pools, which contain small drift. This floatage is used for protection of the larvae from natural enemies and also serves as an important source of food supply. Chief among the insects' other preferences is a home with equal sun and shade.

Drainage for the elimination of these malaria mosquitoes is, therefore, a highly specialized undertaking. Such drainage works are not as extensive as agricultural drainage systems or flood control projects but at the same time are designed to dissipate stagnant waters in six or seven days. Since the aquatic stages in mosquito development require about nine days, the removal of the water in less time prevents completion of the breeding process.

During the three-year campaign it is estimated that more than 22,000 miles of ditches have been constructed, resulting in reclaiming about 340,000 acres of mosquito breeding areas and affording protection from malaria to approximately 14,000,000 persons.

Typical of the accomplishments of the control program is the work in New Mexico, storm center of the pestilence. Countless millions of those disease-laden insects have been exterminated by more than 52 miles of ditches, which drain 74,000,000 square feet of stagnant, heretofore worthless swampland.

The entire population of Las Palomas, Sierra County, was affected by a malaria epidemic in





Annihilating Anopheles

1933 and 1934. Last year, after WPA control projects had gotten under way, no new cases were reported. Gulfport, Miss., is another city greatly benefited by mosquito control.

In addition to eradicating mosquitoes, the control work has converted thousands of befoiled areas into fertile farmlands. It is estimated that hitherto worthless land is now valued at \$3 per 100 square feet as a result of WPA mosquito control.

Systematic mosquito control in the District of Columbia got under way as early as 1930—three years before the program became Nation-wide—when Federal funds were appropriated for that purpose. These funds ran out in 1934 and activity ceased until June 20 of last year. Since that time the work has been carried on in turn by the Civil Works Administration, the Federal Emergency Relief Administration and finally the Works Progress Administration.

Happily, Washington is not troubled by the malaria-transmitting mosquito, the city's chief worry being the culex pipiens,

which, although pestiferous, cannot transmit disease. Breeding grounds for the culex pipiens are in catch basins, streams, ponds, and other places where dirty water might be found.

The District's 18,000 catch basins and 175,000 square feet of pond area are oiled every week by a crew of 100 local WPA workers. In addition to that extensive operation the crew takes care of approximately 138 miles of open streams once a year. The oiling process is used, of course, only when the complete elimination of the breeding spot is impossible.

Augmenting the tireless efforts of the crew, there are twelve mosquito "catch" traps located at vital points throughout the city. At dusk, when the insect begins its nocturnal rampage, the mosquito is attracted by an electric light atop the trap. A suction contraption draws the pest from the light downward into a bottle of sodium cyanide.



'The Birds and the Beasts Were There' . . .

THE National Zoological Park, sprawling over hills and ravines of Washington's beautiful Rock Creek Park, is a mecca for the Capital's young and old, and it also annually draws thousands of visitors from every State.

Improvement and beautification of the Zoo was advanced appreciably with the inauguration of the Works Progress Administration. Officials of the WPA selected the park as one of the projects designed to kill two birds with one stone—put needy men to work and give the community sorely needed improvements.

Today the Zoo project stands out as one of the prominent achievements of the District of Columbia Works Progress Administration. Dr. William A. Mann, noted curator of the Zoo, told WORK that there is no part of the park that hasn't seen some definite improvement through the medium of WPA. Many of these improvements, he said, have been needed for years.

Thousands of tons of crushed rock, quarried on the Zoo preserves, and thousands of man-hours of work were utilized in the Zoo "face-lifting" program. Since Easter 50 men have been employed steadily on the project.

Bridle path enthusiasts have WPA workers to thank for the improved trails through the Zoo section of Rock Creek Park. Numerous complaints had been received about the condition of the paths. Workmen improved more than two miles of paths and provided the proper drainage to keep them in good shape.

One of the major improvements made by WPA was the construction of an artificial lake for the Zoo's splendid collection of swans. Another was the building of a rock and flower garden near the bear cages.

Considerable money was saved



But the Zoo Welcomed WPA Assistance

the Zoo by WPA repairs to the huge flight cage which houses America's national bird, the bald eagle, and a number of condors. The cage, built along a hill, was slipping from its foundations. Relief workers constructed a new foundation, and by using rock from the Zoo quarries, constructed unique rock crags in the rear of the cage, giving the birds the nearest thing to their natural habitat.

Not the least of the improvements was the building of a small mammal house under the FERA setup. WPA workers also have replaced the 35-year-old floor of the lion house with a modern, sanitary tile. An enclosure for wild horses also was constructed.

One of the most interesting of the WPA improvements was the construction of a "goat mountain" for the Zoo's collection of Barbary sheep. This exhibit attracts hundreds each day.



Demolition of the antiquated elephant house was another job accomplished by WPA. The new, modern pachyderm pen is rapidly nearing completion, through the aid of the Public Works Administration, and Curator Mann expects to open it to the public by Thanksgiving.

The WPA force is making plans now to attack the problem of landscaping around the new elephant house. There will be considerable grading and filling work to be done, and when this is completed grass and shrubs will be planted and trees transplanted.

One of the minor projects of the Zoo program, but nevertheless one of the most important from the aesthetic point of view, is the cleaning of underbrush and poisonous plants from the park area and the trimming, removal and transplanting of trees.

Dr. Mann pointed out that none of the park trees are cut down unless it is absolutely necessary, and when this is done other trees are planted or transplanted to take their places. It has been the consistent policy of Zoo officials to keep the park grounds in their native condition so far as possible.

Additional improvements at the Zoo include the laying of a new walk from the bird house to the flight cage, construction of a fine automobile road from the Harvard Street Entrance to the top of the hill where the Zoo office is situated and the removal and replacement of numerous paddocks for small and large animals.

Peter Hilt, chief of construction at the Zoo, reports the laying of 1,600 feet of watermain, 1,800 feet of twelve-inch sanitary sewer, 1,600 feet of hipac walks, 1,000 yards of hand-mixed concrete and repairs to several miles of main roads.

The Zoo project has been one of the most economically operated



of those in the District of Columbia. All of the stone used on the project was quarried, cut and crushed on Zoo property. All of the sand was obtained on the grounds and all of the concrete used was hand mixed.

Commenting on the aid rendered by WPA to the Zoo's development, Curator Mann declared:

"The Zoo has benefited a great deal from the work accomplished by the Works Progress Administration. There is no part of the park that hasn't received some definite improvement. Some of these things have been needed for years. The Government property is in much better condition than ever before, which will be reflected in lower maintenance costs in the future than if the work had not been done."



AS soil erosion, silent precursor of fruitless harvests, dramatically threatens the basic prosperity of this country, the newly-born Soil Conservation Service presses its efforts to emergency tempo, utilizing the powerful resources of the Works Progress Administration and the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Twenty thousand WPA workers have been placed in the worn fields of the West to arrest this bitter march of destruction. They are augmented by thousands of CCC youths, all working under trained field staffs of the Soil Conservation Service. Men are replacing trees which never should have felt the woodman's ax, sowing grasses which never should have been turned by the plow, and damming gullies which never should have shredded the countryside.

The fight is serious. Listen to the logic of H. H. Bennett, Chief of the Soil Conservation Service,

as he speaks before a senatorial committee while the dust storm of 1935 passes over the Capitol.

"That dust storm," Mr. Bennett said, "is what comes of cutting down forests, draining lakes, ponds and marshes, robbing plains and prairies of vegetation covering, and then plowing and planting unintelligently and recklessly. Do you realize that that dust storm was once fertile topsoil on fields a thousand miles from here?"

"Or how long it takes nature to produce an inch of topsoil?" he demanded. "Four hundred to 1,000 years! And man's wastefulness can destroy that inch in a decade. The black cyclone we are watching and others like it, have swept away 300,000,000 tons of good, rich earth. Add water erosion to wind erosion, and you have a total of 3,000,000,000 tons lost from the fields of the United States every year. The Mississippi River alone carries 300,000,-

000 tons to the Gulf of Mexico, gentlemen. Man-made deserts! That's America's future unless we take immediate and effective action."

Action has been taken. Virtually every square mile of the country has been surveyed. The results have been startling. Fifty million acres have been ruined already by erosion; another 50,000,000 acres are just about gone; wasted lands are being abandoned at the rate of 200,000 acres a year; 1,000,000 acres are endangered by ignorance and neglect. A loss of \$400,000,000 is being registered annually by the landowners.

In slightly more than a year—the age of the Soil Conservation Service—157 demonstration centers have been established. Trained soil specialists at these points are educating and materially assisting a growing list of 40,000 agriculturalists in saving soil that has been too eagerly farmed.

Approximately 65,000,000 acres

are under the surveillance of the Soil Conservation Service. Within this vast area, soil experts are analyzing erosion problems in farm units. An erosion survey map is made of each farm, showing the types of soil, the slope of the land, present land usage and the extent and manner in which the soil has been washed and blown away.

Once analyzed, the farm is treated to erosion-arresting methods and their variations. These methods are the application of nature's conservation and flood control processes to the condition of advanced cultivation. Instead of leaving the fields smooth and bare, inviting erosion, the underlying principle is to roughen the surface and arrange the earth and vegetation into impediments to drainage. In such a manner, rain waters are forced to creep, seeping into the earth.

In his annual report to the Secretary of Agriculture, Bennett describes the objectives of the program:

"Broadly stated, the objectives of the Service are to propagate the use of soil conservation practices in agriculture through the medium of demonstration; to effect at the same time a maximum control of erosion on as large an area of agricultural lands as possible; and to ascertain the fundamental scientific facts essential to the development and improvement of soil conservation methods and techniques.

"In a general way the program of the Service comprehends a functional approach to each of these objectives, and may be divided into distinct but interrelated fields of activity involving (1) the demonstration of practical and effective measures of soil conservation by (2) actual work upon the land in cooperation with the landowners, and (3) the consistent development and improvement of such measures through research and investigation."

Physicists and chemists tell us that since the earth's inception nature has established a delicate bal-

ance between water, soils, grasses and forests. It is a balance in which component parts are dependent upon each other, creating a world of abundant, useful resources for the habitation and sustenance of man.

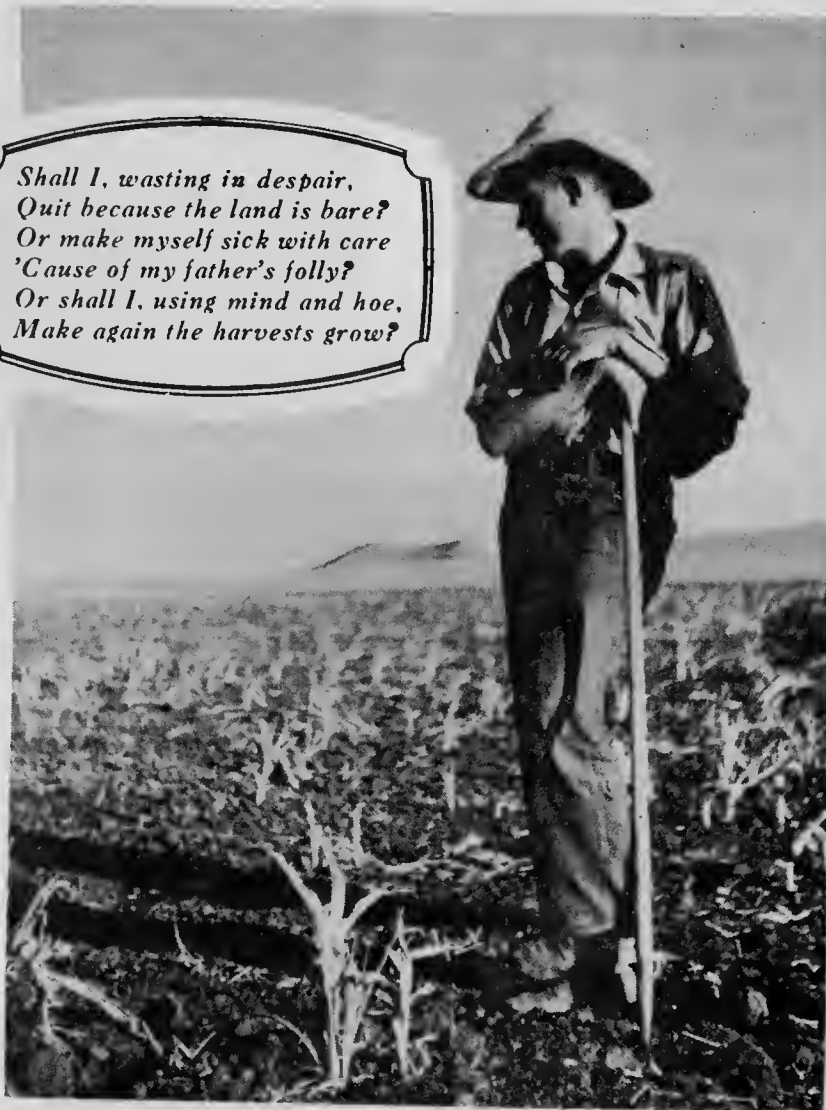
In the course of agricultural expansion of the United States, this "balance" has been violated. Ruthless exploitation of farming since the day the first pioneer broke the ground has gradually shattered the relationship. When fields failed to produce, landowners in the past have moved west to richer land. In this march, wasted lands have been left behind, now totalling millions of acres.

With this understanding there

is being worked out and put into operation measures fully adequate to save our basic heritage. Without the thin layer of topsoil which bears the agricultural produce of the nation, prosperity is endangered. The Sahara and Gobi Deserts, and the treeless, waterless stretches of Central Asia, Palestine and Mesopotamia were once fertile regions, once green with forests, streams, vineyards and orchards.

America is by no means immune. Experts agree we must seriously consider the very foundation upon which our civilization exists, and aid nature in assuring future generations natural resources typical of the fruitfulness symbolic of America.

*Shall I, wasting in despair,
Quit because the land is bare?
Or make myself sick with care
'Cause of my father's folly?
Or shall I, using mind and hoe,
Make again the harvests grow?*



Training Maids

By
Anna Marie Discole

*National Supervisor, WPA
Household Workers' Training
Program*

WPA Household Workers' Training courses for needy young women were initiated last February through an allotment of \$500,000 of Federal Funds, to be administered by the Division of Women's and Professional Projects, headed by Ellen S. Woodward, Assistant Administrator.

The three-fold purpose of the program is:

To train needy young women interested in household employment as an occupation;

To create qualified labor to meet the existing demand for trained household employees;

To organize committees, composed of home economics specialists, representatives of home-making groups, departments of education, and various social agencies, who are interested in raising standards in the occupation.

Household workers, numbering approximately 1,500,000 persons, comprise one of the largest occupational groups in the country. It may seem ironical that there should be a definite shortage of available employees in a field of such numerical proportions. The supply of capable household workers has been on the constant decrease for a number of years, and the demand of employers for competent employees to meet their needs has become increasingly vocal.

Approximately 64 responsible and forward-looking groups, conscious of the fact that household employers were faced with an acute shortage in the household workers' class, have made detailed and comprehensive studies

of conditions existing in the field. The results of these studies show with unmistakable clarity the causes of the unsatisfactory situation existing today.

It was noted that prior to the immigration quota law of 1921, which cut off a large potential labor supply, American employers depended to a considerable extent upon foreign-born workers. American-born girls have turned away from this occupation for a number of reasons. Hours are long and unregulated. Wages are generally low. Household workers can be assured of but little freedom to follow their own pursuits. Living conditions are often inadequate. A social stigma is generally attached to all domestic service. Household workers are unprotected by unions, labor laws, or workmen's compensation.

Unsatisfactory conditions grew

steadily and more markedly worse during the depression period. Many employers were forced to cut both the wages and the number of their employees. Sometimes one worker was required to perform the tasks of two. Many new employers, who had never had household assistance before, offered jobs at sub-standard wages with poor working and living conditions.

Showing clearly the reasons why many young women have avoided household work as an occupation, studies of responsible groups point out also some of the difficulties encountered by employers, who, because of the lack of trained workers, are forced to employ incompetent and inexperienced women.

The two broad objectives of the Works Progress Administration are to put needy people to work



Tuck it in tight

and to render community service.

At present approximately 2,340 young women are training for jobs as household workers at 99 centers in the District of Columbia and 17 states.

By September 1, approximately 2,413 young women had been certificated and placed. In some localities the demand for WPA trainees has so far exceeded the supply that more than 500 girls accepted positions before entirely completing their courses and obtaining their certificates.

Each young woman admitted to a WPA training center may choose one or take all four of the courses offered—those for general household employee, cook, child's nurse and second maid.

Generally five hours a day are devoted to the work five days a week. The average girl completes her course in from seven to eight weeks. It is possible, however, for a more experienced and particularly apt worker to finish in from four to six weeks.

Practice houses are located in urban centers. Communities generally supply centers, household furnishings, equipment and other materials. They also furnish facilities for health examinations, required of all applicants who otherwise meet the established requirements. Federal funds are used for teachers' salaries, food and incidental expenses. The trainees, who range in age from 18 to 35, are provided with lunches, uniforms, and \$1.00 a week for carfare to and from the training centers.

Local communities differ in the exact content of the training course. The curriculum generally includes, however, such units of instruction as food preparation, food serving, daily care of the home, weekly cleaning, bed making, washing and ironing, daily care of children, marketing and care of food, proper handling of all equipment, health and personal hygiene, personal appearance, answering the telephone and doorbell, employer-employee relationships, and other subjects which

should be covered in a well-rounded training program.

The proposed standards submitted by these committees to the Division of Women's and Professional Projects generally call for a definite understanding between the employer and employee at the time of employment regarding wages, hours and work to be done.

Total actual working hours, the Standards Committees generally agree, should not exceed a maximum of 60 working hours a week, and that two half days off a week, beginning not later than 2 P. M. on the week day and 3 P. M. on Sunday, or one whole day a week, should be scheduled for the employee. A vacation of one week with pay should be given the employee after the first year's service.

Young women completing the courses are generally placed through the U. S. Employment Service or the National Reemployment Service.

It is hoped through this program not only to improve the training and abilities of household workers, but also to improve their status. It is evident that if the difficulties of employers are to be alleviated, housework must be dignified and the standards so raised that capable girls will be attracted to the field.

In short, the Division of Women's and Professional Projects of the WPA believes that the ultimate solution to the problem of meeting the demand for competent household workers must lie in making household work a skilled occupation.



Forks to the left

THE ROAD BACK . . .

❖ ❖
SPEEDY elimination of "barbarous" and "medieval" conditions is being effected at the National Training School for Girls by the WPA, cooperating with the District of Columbia.

An extensive program, calling for construction of new buildings, remodelling of the present structures, grading and resurfacing of roads and centralization of cooking and other activities is well under way.

This program not only will improve morale of the girl inmates, and facilitate their training, but will contribute to the more im-

portant objective of their rehabilitation.

Girls under 17 years of age who are committed to the Training School by the District Juvenile Court are greatly cheered by the new order of events made possible by the WPA, carrying out plans and suggestions of Dr. Carrie Weaver Smith, superintendent.

For Dr. Smith operates on an honor system, which embraces a comprehensive schedule of vocational training with ample provision for athletics and other recreational activity.

Barred windows, which gave the buildings the appearance of

prisons, are being enlarged, converting what were cheerless rooms into pleasant living quarters. The bars are replaced by ordinary screens. The atmosphere is more that of a modern dormitory than that of a prison or reformatory.

Girls on admittance to the Training School will be examined in a clinic being built with WPA help. Treatment and examinations are made three times a week by physicians from Washington, assisted by a resident nurse.

Dental care also is provided, without cost to the girls.

Upon assignment to quarters,



One of the dormitories at the National Training School for Girls showing road built by WPA

the new girl will find a bright, cheerful, steam-heated, electrically-lighted room. The installation of radiators and electric lights has been done by the WPA.

The newcomer will be assigned work, possibly in the laundry or at some other chore, and told that she is expected to work three and a half-hours a day and attend classes for the same length of time.

Practice kitchens are provided under the new set-up, while "practice" living rooms, sewing rooms, and bedrooms offer a chance to learn how to maintain a home.

But the new girls will not find it all work. They will have an opportunity to participate in amateur theatricals, to attend moving picture exhibits in the new auditorium which is part of the WPA program. A croquet court is provided, as is a basketball court—and the girls take enthusiastically to baseball!

The auditorium also will serve as a chapel, attendance at which is not only compulsory but an event awaited eagerly by the inmates.

Saturday is a big day in the girls' lives. It is then they are "paid off." Each girl is allotted \$7 a week, in "brass" money. Of this, \$4 is charged for room and board. The remaining \$3 is the girl's, to spend as she sees fit on



Shopping day in school store

Saturday—provided she has not violated any of the rules and regulations. In the event she has, she is charged so much for each demerit.

On the other hand, she will find it possible, through a bonus system, to materially increase the size of her weekly stipend. With

the funds she has available she may visit the "store" in the basement of one of the buildings to purchase dresses, shoes, lingerie, hats and numerous other articles. She may buy yard goods and make her own clothes, or may purchase candy or other sweets.

In the first three and a half months of work at the training school, the WPA had spent a total of \$22,542.17 for labor, equipment rental and material. The project, which provides for installation of new gas ovens, replacing old coal burning stoves, laundry room equipment, a beautiful garden, and other improvements, is expected to be completed in December.

In addition to paving the way for better citizens, rehabilitating girls and sending them out into the world equipped for business or domestic life, the project has had the double-barrelled effect of furnishing employment for an average of 60 men daily and adding to the civic improvement program of the Nation's Capital.



"What with her toil she won"

New Lives for Old

Vocational Service Helps Disabled Overcome Handicaps

THE story of how the shattered life of Guido Romani, a cripple on relief, was pieced together so that he was able to resume his duty as the sole supporter of a family of five is a typical example of results achieved by the Vocational Rehabilitation Service. Each year it assists approximately 500 physically handicapped persons in the District of Columbia.

Guido Romani is a fictitious name, but the case is true. It comprises a thick folio of data that carries the details of his case until he was returned to active employment. Romani was a genial Italian stone mason whose back was left stiff and useless after an accident in which he saved the life of a fellow-worker. Romani braced his back against a huge stone which was tottering upon its foundation, while the imperilled laborer scrambled to safety. Guido's back was bent double, injuring his spine.

When Romani applied to the Vocational Rehabilitation Service for help, he was living on the bare sustenance offered by a relief check of \$5 a week. He was alone. His family had been stranded in Italy for several months, sent there during more prosperous days when he was making as high as \$65 a week.

The Vocational Service immediately began to do three things for the discouraged stone mason:

At their expense, Romani was given vitally necessary medical treatments for his back. He was fitted with glasses. A series of interviews were arranged to consider his re-education for another type of work, for doctors had by then told him that he never would be able to perform the heavy tasks of masonry.

It was during one of these interviews that Romani happened to mention that masonry estimators "make plenty of money".



*Rehabilitated men
repairing watches*

To this, Romani's advisor suggested that with a background of technical education to support his manual experience, Romani could become an estimator.

A year later, with the financial and other assistance of the Vocational Service, Romani graduated with high honors from a technical school in Washington—qualified as an expert stone masonry estimator. Through the efforts of the Service, a settlement of nearly \$2,000 was awarded by an insurance company whose protection he carried at the time of the accident.

Today, the family of Guido Romani is reunited, once more self-supporting. And Romani is conducting a business of his own, which, according to his friends at the Vocational Service, is becoming very successful.

Multiply the case of Guido Romani 500 times and the reader can visualize the work the Vocational Rehabilitation Service is performing yearly in Washington. Cripples, the blind and deaf, tubercular sufferers, and those afflicted with speech impediments are being re-educated and guided into profitable jobs. Scores are being taken off the relief lists as they become able to support themselves.

The Works Progress Administration in the District of Columbia is supplementing this program with a force of 34 trained white-collar workers. They have been distributed throughout Washington institutions where special work is conducted among the handicapped: Weightman School, Phyllis Weatley Craft Shop, District Tuberculosis Association,

Columbia Polytechnic Institute for the Blind, Library of Congress, and George Washington and Howard Universities.

At the latter two institutions, WPA employees are working as braille readers and researchers for blind college students. According to H. C. Corpening, superintendent of the Vocational Service, the WPA has initiated an active program which has been reaching hundreds more disabled men and women. A recent WPA survey listed 800 handicapped persons who had never known of the service.

From April through September of this year, the WPA division of the Vocational Rehabilitation Service has aided 144 handi-

capped persons in obtaining permanent jobs. All previously were dependent upon direct relief checks.

Every physically or vocationally handicapped person in the District of Columbia is eligible for this service. Applicants are personally interviewed to determine their adaptability and need for vocational aid. Personal supervision and financial assistance is given throughout the entire program of medical treatment and vocational rehabilitation.

The rehabilitation program has three purposes: to effect physical restoration, to teach the handicapped a profession or trade and to find the disabled a permanent job.

Artificial limbs, crutches, glasses, hearing devices and other appliances are furnished. Patients are treated by doctors to insure all possible medical attention.

Once physical restoration is under way, attention is immediately turned toward the task of vocational training. This is being effected in virtually every school in the District, by private tutors, by actual experience on the job and by correspondence.

At the conclusion of training no person is considered vocationally rehabilitated by the service until he or she is successfully employed in the occupation chosen as the objective. The service acts as a guide in cooperating with employment agencies and directly with employers.

Economically, the entire program shows an amazing dividend for its cost of operation. The average rehabilitation case costs the government \$175. This includes doctor bills, tuition fees, appliances, etc. To each person upon whom this amount is spent there is a return of a job averaging \$20 a week.

There is the case of a former real estate man who became totally deaf. When all types of hearing devices failed, the Vocational Service furnished him with a course in lip-reading. That man now has a government position paying \$3500 a year. Scores of other handicapped persons are earning regular salaries in the government service. In private industry men and women have been trained to support themselves as typewriter mechanics, chair seat caners, dictaphone transcribers, newstand operators, artists, photographers and for hundreds of other positions.

Vocational rehabilitation is a service whose worth can not be measured in dollars and cents. What it has done in keeping families together, in rebuilding men and women, with a consequent restoration of morale and confidence in the future, is of incalculable value.





*"In records that defy the tooth of time."
The Statesman's Creed.*

AMONG the nation's most priceless possessions are its archives. In indelible letters they trace the pattern of our history from the landing of the first settlers, through the great crises from which the country has emerged victoriously, down to the present time. As long as our civilization lives these precious documents will continue to register the growth of our Government and the development of our culture.

After more than a century and a half of neglect, the nation now possesses an archives building which in size, beauty of design and completeness of equipment will provide a fitting home for the historic documents which make up the Government's archives.

In the work of finding and preserving these valuable records the Works Progress Administration is playing an important role. More than 2,000 WPA workers are engaged in the gigantic undertaking of surveying the billions of historic documents and manuscripts in every part of the country outside the District of Columbia.

Directed by a force of 30 WPA administrative employees in the Archives of the United States in Washington, the job is now more than half way completed. Supervising the nation-wide survey is Dr. Phillip N. Hamer, official archives librarian.

In dusty attics, damp cellars and thousands of out-of-the-way and oftentimes forgotten places workers are finding aged and faded manuscripts in various stages of deterioration. Searches are being made in Federal Court buildings, custom houses, life saving stations, Army posts, naval stations, Indian agencies, reclamation projects, general land offices and post offices in the larger cities.

The survey also includes the Virgin Islands, where workers found that many valuable archives of the Danish government administration of the isles had been badly damaged by termites. Searchers are hopeful of finding documents that will throw new light on the early colonial history of the islands.

The survey is working under a Congressional appropriation of \$1,178,000 granted for the period of January 1, 1936 to the end of the fiscal year on June 30.

The purpose of the survey as defined by Dr. Hamer is to determine location of all documents outside the District of Columbia, what they are and the quantity and condition of the archives. When the project has been completed and all of the documents indexed it will be determined which of them will be brought to Washington and what steps will be taken to better protect from the ravages of time those not transferred to the capital.

The oldest records found so far

date back to the year 1700. Documents already examined total 3,700,000 cubic feet and in numbers they run into the billions. No effort is being made to index each individual document. In many cases documents relating to a single subject are considered as one unit.

The archives now being examined are located in 15,000 agencies in 12,000 buildings throughout the nation.

Our first unofficial archivist was Charles Thomson, to whom America owes a great debt of gratitude for the excellence and completeness with which he preserved records of the Continental Congress. Evidence of the value of his services is found today in the 595 volumes containing the archives of the Government from 1774 to 1789, now in the Library of Congress. Before the permanent removal of the seat of government from Philadelphia to Washington, in 1800, however, no permanent place was available for these archives, which were forced to keep up with the peregrinations of Congress from city to city, much to their inconvenience, danger and consequent damage.

Need for a permanent building to house the country's archives was sharply emphasized in 1800 when fire destroyed the files of the War Department and again in 1801 when the Treasury Department suffered in a similar way. Following these disastrous losses

the House of Representatives in 1810 appointed a committee headed by Josiah Quincy of Massachusetts to investigate the condition of "the ancient records and archives of the United States" and to report "what measures are necessary for a more safe and orderly preservation thereof."

The committee found that the historic documents were stored in the garrets of the public building west of the President's House where they were "in a state of great disorder and exposure; and in a situation neither safe nor convenient nor honorable to the nation." As a result of the study the committee recommended the building of as many fireproof rooms as necessary to house the government's archives. A bill appropriating \$20,000 for the purpose, passed both Houses of Congress and was signed by the President on April 28, 1910.

Thus Congress passed the first Archives Act and then for more than a century rested from its labors. Meanwhile the archives kept pace with the nation's growth

and the conditions under which they were kept grew more and more precarious. The fire marshal of the District of Columbia reported in 1915 a total of 250 fires on government property between 1873 and 1915. Losses and destruction of archives were also caused by the frequent removal of records from one place to another, by dampness, extremes of heat and cold, and by termites and other insects. Stamp collectors, autograph hunters and plain ordinary thieves also mutilated or purloined valuable documents. In one case, a cabinet official needing room for his office force, sold 400 tons of official records to a junk dealer.

A survey of the archives in the District of Columbia alone in 1930 revealed some startling figures. It shows that from 1789 to 1860, inclusive, the Government had accumulated 108,701 cubic feet of archives; that from 1861 to 1916, inclusive, the accumulation was 923,255 cubic feet; and that from 1917 to 1930, inclusive, the accumulation was 2,641,678 cubic feet.

In other words, during the 13 years from 1917 to 1930 the government accumulated more than twice the volume of archives that it had accumulated for the whole preceding period of 127 years.

In 1926 Congress appropriated \$6,900,000 for an Archives building. This was increased two years later to \$8,750,000. The building is situated on that part of the Federal triangle development bounded by Pennsylvania and Constitution Avenues and by Seventh and Ninth Streets, N. W.

Among the many interesting documents unearthed by the WPA survey is a letter from Paul Revere to the Philadelphia mint offering to sell copper for the manufacture of pennies.

Another document found in Atlanta, Ga., was the application of Woodrow Wilson for permission to practice law. The paper revealed that the war-time President in his early days lacked the \$7 necessary to file with his bar application and had to borrow the sum from a friend.



Shrine awaits The Constitution

New Community Spirit

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON, the great Negro educator, would smile contentedly could he see what is being done for his people in the colored Community Centers of Washington, with the help of the National Youth Administration.

NYA recreation aides and their assistants are employed at all centers. A staff of 26 workers covers the six community centers in the District of Columbia.

It is at these Community Centers that many boys and girls get their first real lessons in character training. Interspersed between basketball, boxing and other games, the fundamentals of social behavior are taught.

In certain sections of Washington it was almost impossible to curb vandalism. Trained directors, successful in other communities, could not cope with the situation when placed in charge of these unruly districts.

However, in one instance a new approach to this problem was attempted. A colored youth from one of the "tough" districts was made an assistant director. He became the coach for other youths with whom he used to associate. Results were gratifying. In three months he had all of the boys toeing the line; their unruly spirit was gone.

Today the coach himself no longer has a warped sense of social values. He is proud of his responsibility and has been striving faithfully to live up to higher standards. Yet, when this youth was appointed he had a record of incorrigibility and the move was made only as an experiment.

There are many other instances where NYA staff appointees have benefited as much as their charges. Last summer a young girl was appointed as assistant. She turned out to be lazy, took no interest in the work and could not get along with her immediate supervisor. It was decided to let her go. But accidentally it was discovered that she had talent in



Handicraft of NYA at Community Center

drawing. She was made an assistant in that field. Her progress was steady. Today she is an assistant to the Director of the Federal Arts Project.

The National Youth Administration has sought to coordinate its work with the Community Center Department's program. It provides young people from needy families with part-time work, which assists this Department and benefits the entire Community.

The NYA supervisor may point with pride to the work of his assistants. Whether the task assigned be that of teaching French, supervising, craftwork, or assisting with clerical duties, these youths have demonstrated a laudable degree of efficiency.

Results of the work done along creative lines was shown in an impressive art exhibit at the Dunbar Community Center.

Early in November Julius Carroll, whose industry helped make this project successful, selected 13 promising young employees to form a choral society. Being a graduate of the Howard Univer-

sity Conservatory, he hopes soon to be able to send his pupils forth as music instructors.

It has been noted that the workers respond to contact with the regular departmental staffs by improvements in dress, attitude and deportment.

As a result of these observations, supervisors ordered more emphasis placed on visits to homes. It is still too early for conclusions based on these visits, but it is interesting to note an improvement in the homes of many youths. This was most noticeable in homes with low financial resources and lax moral, social and intellectual standards. Traces of recaptured thrift habits, of reestablished household order, and of a better sense of moral and social responsibility are now manifest.

These indications are encouraging. As time progresses greater attention will be given the informal, unannounced home visits with the objective of gathering first hand evidence concerning the effect of youths' participation in the Community Centers program.

“LET us keep always in mind the underlying purposes of the Works Progress Administration. Our task has been and is to provide JOBS—jobs instead of a dole—for those men, women and youths, regardless of religious creed or political belief, whose need of work has been verified.”

—Harry L. Hopkins

The Home of Presidents

CHOICE of a color of paint determined the name of the White House, home of the Presidents and the Nation's most famous mansion. Burned by the British in 1814, the "President's Palace," as it had been called, was reconstructed under the supervision of Major James Hoban, the original architect, and painted white to conceal its charred battle wounds.

The cornerstone of the Executive Mansion—its official name at that time—was laid October 13, 1792, 300 years after the landing of Columbus.

Bitter objections to its site, chosen by Major L'Enfant, who prepared plans for the nation's capital, coupled with lack of funds, impeded progress on the structure.

Money for the project was originally raised by sale of lots in the Federal City, and through contributions from the adjacent States of Maryland and Virginia.

General and Mrs. Washington made their first tour of inspection through the rooms in 1799. By 1800 a sturdy, dignified building, the first public structure in the new Capital, had arisen on the Potomac's swampy banks.

Even so, it was not until 1818 that the first public reception was held in the Executive Mansion. Indeed, John Adams, the first President to occupy the "Palace," resided at a tavern until the mansion could be made habitable. He moved in while many of the apartments were yet unfinished. And his wife, Abigail, made the most of it by hanging her washing in the huge audience room. That apartment, now the famous East Room, is the largest in the White House.

Although referred to by press and public alike as the "White House," it was not until Theodore Roosevelt was President that the building was so designated officially.

Many changes were made in the mansion during the 19th century, while in 1902 a wholesale reconstruction was begun. Even at this late date a change of site was considered. However, this opposition died out with decision to preserve the original location and, so far as possible, its early design. Part of a Congressional appropriation of \$475,000 was used to remodel the building to conform to its original pattern.

An adaptation of the Italian Renaissance in style, the White House blends various styles of architecture which are now regarded as inherently American. Today it approaches more closely than ever the fulfillment of the design of its founders, a worthy symbol of the Nation's executive authority.
